

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ACE RELOCATION SYSTEMS, INC.,

No. C 06-3871 MEJ

Plaintiff(s),

**ORDER VACATING SEPTEMBER 21,
2006 CASE MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE**

vs.

LEN SHORT, DOES 1-5,

CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER

Defendant(s).

The Court is in receipt of the parties Joint Case Management Conference Statement, filed September 14, 2006. Upon review of the parties' statement, the Court hereby VACATES the September 21, 2006, Case Management Conference and ORDERS as follows:

A. ADR Program:

The parties are hereby referred to mediation.

B. Jury or Court Trial:

The Court hereby sets this matter for a bench trial.

C. Pretrial Motions:

1. All pretrial motions shall be filed in accordance with Civil Local Rule 7. A motion shall be

1 noticed pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7-2 without calling the Court. Civil law and motion is
 2 heard on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

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 4 D. Discovery:

- 5 1. The parties shall abide by Judge James' standing order regarding discovery and dispute
 6 procedures.

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 8 E. Disclosure of Expert Witnesses:

- 9 1. Any party wishing to present expert witness testimony with respect to a claim or defense
 10 shall serve on all other parties the name, address, qualifications, resume, and a written report
 11 which complies with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B) on or before February 23,
 12 2007.

- 13 2. This disclosure must be made with respect to a person who is either (a) specifically retained
 14 or specially employed to provide expert testimony pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 702
 15 or (b) a regular employee or agent or treating physician who may be called to provide expert
 16 opinion testimony.

- 17 3. **A party or counsel has a continuing duty to supplement the disclosure of expert**
 18 **witnesses when required under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(e)(1).**

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 20 F. Rebuttal Expert Witnesses:

- 21 1. If the testimony of the expert is intended solely to contradict or rebut opinion testimony on
 22 the same subject matter identified by another party, the party proffering a rebuttal expert shall
 23 make the disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B), no later than
 24 March 9, 2007.

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 26 G. Limitation on Testimony by Expert Witnesses:

- 27 1. Unless the parties enter into a written stipulation otherwise, upon timely objection, an expert
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witness shall be precluded from testifying about any actions or opinions not disclosed prior to the expert's deposition. This is to ensure that all factual material upon which expert opinion may be based and all tests and reports are completed prior to the expert deposition.

2. Unless application is made prior to the close of expert discovery, each party is limited to calling only one expert witness in each discipline involved in the case.

3. Any party objecting to the admissibility of the testimony of person disclosed as an expert witness must file a written motion *in limine* to exclude the testimony no later than the deadline set in this order for filing motions *in limine*.

H. Close of Discovery:

1. All regular discovery must be completed by February 23, 2007. All expert discovery must be completed by March 30, 2007.

2. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b) and Civil Local Rule 26-2, a discovery request or stipulation that calls for responses or depositions after the discovery cut-off date are not enforceable except by order of the Court and upon a showing of good cause.

3. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 26-2, no motions to compel discovery may be filed later than 10 days after the discovery cut-off date.

I. Dispositive Motions:

1. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7-2, all dispositive motions shall be filed, served and noticed by March 22, 2007. The parties shall file a joint statement of undisputed facts pursuant to Civil Local Rule 56-2(b) when filing a motion for summary judgment or summary adjudication.

2. The Court shall hear dispositive motions on April 26, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom B, 15th Floor of the Federal Building, located at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California.

J. Exchange and filing of Trial Papers:

- 1 1. By June 28, 2007 lead counsel who will try the case shall meet and confer with respect to the
2 preparation and content of the joint pretrial conference statement and shall exchange (but not
3 file or lodge) the papers described in paragraph 2 below.
- 4 2. By July 11, 2007 counsel shall file the papers described in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
5 26(a)(3) and a joint pretrial conference statement including the following:
6 (A) Substance of the Action: A brief description of the substance of claims and defenses
7 which remain to be decided.
8 (B) Relief Prayed: A detailed statement of all the relief claimed, particularly itemizing all
9 elements of damages claimed as well as witnesses, documents or other evidentiary material to
10 be presented concerning the amount of damages.
11 (C) Undisputed Facts: A plain and concise statement of all relevant facts not reasonably
12 disputable, as well as which facts parties will stipulate for incorporation into the trial record
13 without the necessity of supporting testimony or exhibits.
14 (D) Disputed Factual Issues: A plain and concise statement of all disputed factual issues
15 which remain to be decided.
16 (E) Agreed Statement: A statement assessing whether all or part of the action may be
17 presented upon an agreed statement of facts.
18 (F) Stipulations: A statement of stipulations requested or proposed for pretrial or trial
19 purposes.
20 (G) Witness list: A list of all witnesses to be called for trial. The parties shall submit a page-
21 length detailed summary of the substance of the proposed testimony of each witness, which
22 shall also specify to which disputed fact the testimony relates and an estimate of the time
23 required for direct and cross examination of each prospective witness.
24 (H) Exhibit list: A list of all exhibits to be offered at trial. The exhibit list shall list each
25 proposed exhibit by its number or alphabetical letter, description and sponsoring witness. All
26 documents shall be authenticated prior to trial.
27 (I) Estimated Time of Trial: An estimate of the number of hours needed for the presentation
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of each party's case.

(J) Settlement: A statement summarizing the status of the parties' settlement negotiations.

No party shall be permitted to offer any witness or exhibit in its case in chief that is not disclosed in its witness or exhibit list without leave of the Court for good cause shown.

3. Motions *in limine*: Counsel are directed to meet and confer to resolve any evidentiary disputes prior to filing motions *in limine*. Any motions *in limine* shall be filed July 11, 2007. Any Opposition to motions *in limine* shall be filed July 18, 2007. These matters will be deemed submitted on the papers without oral argument, unless the Court orders otherwise.
4. Trial Briefs: Counsel shall file trial briefs setting forth the applicable legal standard, pursuant to Ninth Circuit authority, all significant disputed issues of law, including foreseeable procedural and evidentiary issues by July 27, 2007.
5. Joint Proposed Voir Dire (Jury Trial Only): Counsel should submit a **joint** set of requested voir dire to be posed by the Court by July 27, 2007. Any voir dire questions on which counsel cannot agree shall be submitted separately by July 27, 2007. Counsel will be allowed brief follow-up voir dire after the Court's questioning.
6. Joint Proposed Jury Instructions (Jury Trial Only): Jury instructions § 1.01 through § 2.02 and § 3.01 through § 3.15 from the Manual of Model Civil Jury Instructions for the Ninth Circuit will be given absent objection. Counsel shall submit a **joint** set of additional proposed jury instructions by July 27, 2007. The instructions shall be ordered in a logical sequence, together with a table of contents. Any instruction on which counsel cannot agree shall be marked as "disputed," and shall be included within the jointly submitted instructions and accompanying table of contents, in the place where the party proposing the instruction believes it should be given. Argument and authority for and against each disputed instruction shall be included as part of the joint submission, on separate sheets directly following the disputed instruction. The Court prefers that all jury instructions conform to the Manual of Model Civil Jury Instructions for the Ninth Circuit.

If possible, counsel shall deliver to the Courtroom Deputy a copy of their joint proposed jury instructions on a computer disk in WordPerfect format. The disk label shall include the name of the parties, the case number and be entitled "Proposed Jury Instructions."

At the close of Defendant's case in chief, the Court shall hear oral argument on the disputed jury instructions and will then render its rulings.

7. Proposed Verdict Forms, Joint or Separate (Jury Trial Only): Counsel shall submit any **joint** proposed verdict forms and shall submit their separate verdict forms by July 27, 2007.

Whenever possible, counsel shall deliver to the Courtroom Deputy a copy of their joint proposed verdict forms on a computer disk in WordPerfect. The disk label shall include the name of the parties, the case number and be entitled "Proposed Verdict Forms."

8. Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law (Court Trial Only): Counsel shall submit **joint** proposed findings of facts by July 27, 2007. Counsel shall submit separately a copy of their disputed findings of fact and conclusions of law by July 27, 2007.

Whenever possible, counsel shall deliver to the Courtroom Deputy a copy of their joint proposed findings of fact on a computer disk in WordPerfect. The disk label shall include the name of the parties, the case number and be entitled "Joint Proposed Findings of Facts."

K. Pretrial Conference:

1. On July 26, 2007 the Court shall hold a pretrial conference at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom B, 15th Floor of the Federal Building, located at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California. Lead counsel who will try the case must attend the pretrial conference. The purpose of the pretrial conference is for the Court to rule on any issues raised in the final pretrial conference statement, motions *in limine*, and to discuss the trial of the case.

L. Final Pretrial Conference:

1. On August 23, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., the Court shall hold a final pretrial conference to address any outstanding trial issues.

M. Trial Date:

1. The trial shall commence [with jury selection taking place] on August 27, 2007 (Trial schedule: Monday through Thursday, at 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.). The trial shall last four days.
2. For any documents, including the deposition of a witness testifying at trial, which will be shown presented to a witness **but will not be admitted into evidence**, counsel shall bring the original plus three clean copies of the documents. The original document will be handed to the Court during testimony, and the clean copies of the document will be given to the witness during the examination and to opposing counsel.
3. Counsel shall maintain their own exhibits during trial. Exhibits are to be premarked with exhibit tags stapled to the upper lefthand corner. If a photo or chart is being used as an exhibit, the exhibit tag should be placed on the back side of the exhibit. **The Court will only admit premarked exhibits which were listed on the earlier filed exhibit list.**

Plaintiff shall mark the exhibits numerically; Defendant shall mark the exhibits alphabetically. The exhibit markers shall each contain the name and number of the case, the number or alphabetical letter of the exhibit, and blank spaces to accommodate the date admitted and the Deputy Clerk's initials.

4. On the day of trial, counsel shall bring the original premarked exhibits, a copy of the premarked exhibits for opposing counsel and two binders which contain a copy of each side's premarked exhibits for the Court. **The premarked exhibit binders are to be designated with label dividers.** The premarked exhibit binders will be given to the Courtroom Deputy on the morning of the trial.

N. Jury Selection:

1. The Jury Commissioner will summon 20 to 25 prospective jurors. The Courtroom Deputy will select their names at random and seat them in the courtroom in the order in which their names are called.

Voir dire will be asked of sufficient venire persons that eight (or more for a lengthy trial) will remain after all peremptory challenges and an anticipated number of hardship dismissals and cause challenges have been made.

The Court will then take cause challenges, and discuss hardship claims from the individual jurors, at side bar. The Court will inform the attorneys which hardship claims and cause challenges will be granted, but will not announce those dismissals until the process is completed. Each attorney may then list in writing up to three peremptory challenges. The attorneys will review each other's lists and then submit them to the clerk.

Then, from the list of jurors in numerical order, the Court will strike the persons with meritorious hardships, those excused for cause, and those challenged peremptorily. The Court will then call the first eight people in numerical sequence remaining. These people will be the jury. All jurors remaining at the close of the case will deliberate. There are no alternates.

O. Sanctions:

Failure to comply with this Order is cause for sanctions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(f).

P. Transcripts:

Counsel who wants to receive a daily transcript shall contact Debra Campbell, Supervisor Court Reporting Services, at (415) 522-2079, at least ten days in advance of the trial date.

If any video or tape recording equipment or demonstrative devices will be used, a signed order will need to be obtained at least ten days in advance of the trial date for the items to clear security.

Q. Questions:

All questions regarding these instructions should be directed to Brenda Tolbert,

Courtroom Deputy Clerk to Judge James, at (415) 522-4708.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 20, 2006



MARIA ELENA JAMES
United States Magistrate Judge

United States District Court

For the Northern District of California